

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7294
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 1646

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR UN LE IS MOPS
SUBJ: RELATIONS BETWEEN CHRISTIANS IN NORTH AND SOUTH LEBANON

REF: (A) BEIRUT 1564, (B) BEIRUT 1625

1. DCM MET WITH DANY CHAMOUN MARCH 25 TO DISCUSS, INTER ALIA, ACTIVITIES OF CHRISTIANS IN SOUTH LEBANON. DCM SAID USG BELIEVES IT IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT THAT CHRISTIANS IN SOUTH COOPERATE WITH UNIFIL AND DEPLORED MAJOR HADDAD'S RECENT HARRASSMENT OF IRANIAN TROOPS. DANY THREW HIS HANDS IN THE AIR AND SAID HADDAD IS "VERY TIRED." EVEN THOUGH HADDAD WAS SUPPOSED TO BE PNL'S MAN, THEY HAD PRACTICALLY NO CONTROL OVER HIM AND WOULD BE HAPPY TO SEE HIM REPLACED. HADDAD, DANY SAID, WAS BEING MANIPULATED BY THE ISRAELIS: "ANY TIME THEY WANT TO RESTRAIN HIM, THEY CAN CUT OFF HIS SUPPLY OF DIESEL FUEL." DANY NOTED THAT ISRAELIS HAD NOT ALLOWED CHRISTIAN MILITIAS TO PARTICIPATE IN THEIR RECENT
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CAMPAIGN SOUTH AND EAST OF THE LITANI, PREFERRING TO KEEP THEM IN RESERVE TO USE LATER. IN RESPONSE TO DCM'S QUESTION, DANY SAID PNL HAD SENT 16 PEOPLE TO SOUTH LEBANON, VIA ISRAEL, SINCE THE ISRAELI ATTACK. THEY WERE ALL FROM AICHIYE (THE CHRISTIAN VILLAGE NORTHEAST OF NABATIYAH). PNL DID NOT WANT TO SEND PEOPLE WHO WERE NOT FROM THE SOUTH BECAUSE THEY WERE

UNFAMILIAR WITH THE SITUATION AND TENDED TO GET OUT OF HAND. DANY (AND HIS ASSOCIATES) SAID THE KATAEB HAD SENT MORE PEOPLE TO THE SOUTH VIA ISRAEL TO STRENGTHEN THEIR POSITION IN THE SOUTH, BUT THESE PEOPLE WERE STILL BEING HELD IN ISRAEL.

2. COMMENT: AS REPORTED REFTELS, EMBOFF ALSO DISCUSSED QUESTION OF CHRISTIANS MOVING FROM NORTH TO SOUTH LEBANON VIA ISRAEL ON TWO OCCASIONS WITH BASHIR GEMAYEL LAST WEEK. ALTHOUGH WE DOUBT THAT EITHER DANY OR BASHIR IS TELLING US ALL HE KNOWS ABOUT THIS SUBJECT, WE ALSO DOUBT THAT ANY SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF CHRISTIAN FIGHTERS HAS REACHED SOUTHERN LEBANON DURING THE PAST TWO WEEKS. FURTHERMORE, BOTH DANY AND BASHIR HAVE INDICATED THEY UNDERSTAND THE IMPORTANCE OF CHRISTIAN COOPERATION WITH UNIFIL AND WE DO NOT THINK THAT THEY ARE TRYING TO INTERFERE WITH ITS ACTIVITY.
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